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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): NINOMIYA, et al.

Serial No.: 09/918,648

Filed: August 1, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR RECOVERING DITRIMETHYLOLPROPANE

Group: 1764

Examiner: Virginia Manoharan

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 31, 2002

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2002, please the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9 and 11-18 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the following new claims to the application:

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--19. A process for recovering ditrimethylolpropane by-produced when producing trimethylolpropane by reacting n-butyraldehyde with formaldehyde in the presence of a basic catalyst, and then separating trimethylolpropane by extraction and distillation, said process for recovering ditrimethylolpropane comprising:

- i) adding hydroxylamine salts to a still residue of the distillation;
- ii) subjecting a formal compound contained in the still residue to acid decomposition in the presence of said hydroxylamine salts, at a